

REMARKS

Initially, Applicants' attorney expresses his appreciation for the personal Examiner's interview that was conducted on November 20, 2003, at the United States Patent and Trademark Office. As noted in the Interview Summary prepared by the Examiner, Claim 13 would be allowable if amended to reflect that the "thermal conductivity" is the type of conductivity that is measured and that Claims 9 and 10 would be allowable if amended to reflect that a "semiconductor gas sensor" is the type of gas sensor that is used, as was disclosed in the body of the present application. The Examiner had previously stated, in the final Office Action, that Claim 6 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

As shown in the listing of claims presented in this amendment, Claim 6, 9 and 13 have been amended in accordance with the Examiner's recommendations and rewritten in independent form. Amended Claim 6 includes the features previously recited in Claim 6, Independent Claim 14, and intervening Claim 5. Amended Claim 9 includes the features previously recited in Claim 9 and Independent Claim 14. Claim 9 has also been amended to recite that the gas sensor comprises a semiconductor element which changes its electrical properties as a function of the fuel concentration in the measurement mixture, as was disclosed in the body of the present application. Amended Claim 13 includes the features of independent Claim 18 and has been amended to specify that the sensor may measure thermal conductivity, rather than conductivity of unspecified types.

Claim 10 depends from amended Claim 9 and thus includes the features recited therein, including the feature that the gas sensor comprises a semiconductor element which changes its electrical properties as a function of the fuel concentration in the measurement mixture. In accordance with a further recommendation of the Examiner, Claim 10 has been amended to state that the gas sensor may measure thermal conductivity, rather than conductivity of unspecified types.

Addressing the other dependent claims that remain in the application, the dependencies of the previously presented Claims 4 and 15-17 have been amended so that these claims now depend from amended Claim 6 which includes the feature of a liquid sensor for measuring the concentration of fuel in the measurement mixture. The four new Claims 19-22 are identical to Claims 4 and 15-17, respectively, except that they depend from amended Claim 9 which includes the feature of a gas sensor, rather than a liquid sensor, for measuring the concentration of fuel in the measurement mixture. Therefore, the addition of Claims 19-22 do not raise any new issues that would require further consideration or research.

Five claims (i.e., Claims 2, 3, 5, 14 and 18) have been cancelled by the present amendment. Applicants' attorney notes that Claims 1, 7, 8, 11 and 12 were cancelled by a previous amendment.

Applicants' attorney notes that thirteen claims remained in the application prior to the final Office Action. Five of the finally rejected claims (i.e., independent Claims 14 and 18 and dependent Claims 2, 3 and 5) have been cancelled. Four new dependent claims (i.e., Claims 19-22) have been added. Thus, a greater number of finally rejected claims have been cancelled than the number of new claims that have been added, leaving twelve claims in the application.

In summary, Applicants' have amended Claims 6, 9, 10 and 13 in accordance with the Examiner's recommendations. The introduction of new Claims 19-22, as well as the amendment of the previously presented dependent Claims 4 and 15-17, do not raise any new issues that would require further consideration or research. No new matter has been introduced as the result of the claim amendments or the introduction of new claims. A greater number of finally rejected claims have been cancelled than the number of new claims that have been added. The claims that remain in the application are Claims 4, 6, 9, 10, 13, 15-17 and 19-22.

In view of the foregoing amendments, the entry and allowance of amended Claims 4, 6, 9, 10, 13, 15-17 and new Claims 19-22 are respectfully requested. However, should there remain any questions or other matters whose resolution could be advanced by a telephone call, the Examiner is cordially invited to contact Applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Enclosed is an Extension Petition for a two-month extension of time for response to and including December 30, 2003, for which a \$420 fee is due. No other fees are believed to be due in connection with the submission of this Amendment. However, if any additional fees, including extension fees, are due, the Examiner is authorized to charge them to Deposit Account No. 501402.

Respectfully Submitted,



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